

**Occurrence of Coot in New Zealand.**—In the Hon. G. M. Thomson's exceedingly valuable book, "The Naturalisation of Animals and Plants in New Zealand," recently published, mention is made of two specimens of the Coot (*Fulica atra*) being obtained in 1919 in the southern portion of the South Island. One was taken in May at Kaitangata, Otago, and the other in July at Maitaia Island, Southland. Sir Walter Buller reported a specimen in July, 1889, from Lake Waikare, Otago.—ROBT. H. D. STIDOLPH, R.A.O.U., Masterton, N.Z.

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**Royal Spoonbill in New Zealand.**—A Royal Spoonbill (*Platylea regia*), identified by a description sent by Mr. W. Leith, of Martinborough, to the Dominion Museum authorities at Wellington, was recently observed on the Ruamahunga River, near Martinborough, Wellington. An effort was made to protect the bird, but it eventually was shot, a fate that awaits all strange birds. This species has been recorded in New Zealand on but three previous occasions—*viz.*, 1875, mouth of Manawatu River, Wellington; 1892, Buller River, Nelson; and 1905, Greytown, Wellington. According to the Rev. H. W. Williams, M.A., the Maoris knew this bird by the name of kotuku-ngutupapa, a fact which shows that the bird was not unknown to them.—ROBT. H. D. STIDOLPH, Masterton, N.Z. 23/6/1922.

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Numbers of our common **House Swallows** (*Hirundo neoxena*) stay all through the winter, and camp on the beams of Dunlop's Building over the canal at Dight's Falls, Abbotsford. In the winter of 1919 we used to have thirteen birds come in to roost every night. In 1920 only six birds stayed there. In 1921 some 20 to 30 Swallows camped with us. This year, the autumn being so mild, I noticed numbers of birds going under of an evening. I counted one night 59; next, 65; and following night (26/6/22), 70 birds went to roost by half-past 5 p.m. Unfortunately for them, the fireman went down to pump platform under the flooring with a light before daylight. This disturbed the poor little fellows, and they flew about, even resting on the man's hand. One I saw drowned in the morning. This so scared the birds that only two came to the old roost next night. We have only got as high as 25 now (1/8/22). It was very interesting to watch them coming in. Just after the 5 o'clock whistle blew, a flock of 20 to 30 birds would come up over building and under to roost, and then single birds, and up to five kept coming till near dark. I went down, and had a look, and saw that they rested side by side close together on the three narrow cross-pieces. On 1/8/22 seven birds came in during the rain and thunder-storm between 2 and 3 p.m., and sheltered on their roosts. Later (2/8/22) 27 birds on the roosts this morning only.—H. W. FORD, R.A.O.U.